

Appl. No. 10/091,771
Amdt. Dated Dec. 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Oct 20, 2003

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,185,358 (Park) in view of US 6,196,729 (Stephenson).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-8 were previously allowed, and claims 3, 4 and 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to Examiner's comments, Applicant has amended independent claim 1, adding the limitations of dependent claim 3 therein in order to define claim 1 over the prior art. Accordingly, as indicated by Examiner in the Office action, claim 1 should now be allowable.

Claims 2 and 4 depend directly from claim 1 and incorporate more features therein, so they should also be in a condition for allowance.

Claims 5-8 remain unchanged, since Examiner previously allowed them.

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Regarding claim 9, Applicant has added the limitations of dependent claim 13 to claim 9, as suggested by Examiner. Therefore amended claim 9 should now be allowable, since it represents claim 13 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and claim 13.

Claims 10, 12, 14 and 15 should also be allowable since they all depend directly from claim 9.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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